

THE JOY OF CHRIST'S COMING'

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS



SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 2020

5:00 pm

Compassionate God, bless the people of the world in all their diversity of creeds and cultures – and in their daring to believe that though hatred can disrupt, though hatred can destroy, it can never bind hands stretched out in forgiveness, it can never silence voices that whisper ‘Peace’, it can never corrupt hearts that go on loving. Lord, the way of the crib is fragile and vulnerable, the way of the cross is costly; but we would walk that way. So steer and guide our footsteps until all peoples walk as one, free from fear and living together in your way Lord Jesus. Amen.

Welcome

Carol: Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the needy, poor and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) alt.
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Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Carol: O come, all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

Attributed to John Francis Wade (1711-1786)
trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)

The first lesson: Micah 5:2-4

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love;

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

The second lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol – O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

*Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

*Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

*Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

From the Great O Antiphons (12th-13th
century) trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

The third lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Carol: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child;
holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
trans. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

The fourth lesson: Luke 2:8-16

Carol: While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he, (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind)
‘glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

To you in David’s town this day
Is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,
and on the earth be peace,
goodwill henceforth from heaven to all
begin and never cease.’

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

The fifth lesson: John 1:1-14

Carol: Hark, the herald-angels sing

Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with th'angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail, th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), George
Whitefield (1714-1770), Martin Madan
(1726-1790) and others, alt.

Blessing